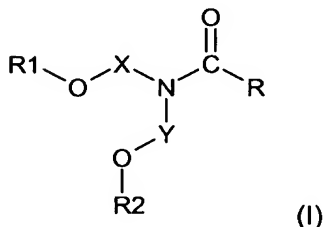


AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously presented) A vermin-repellent composition comprising a compound of formula (I)



wherein

R is unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₅ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; R₁ and R₂ are unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and X and Y, independently of one another, are a straight-chain or branched alkylene bridge with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and
at least one appropriate diluent or a spreading additive.

Claim 20 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, wherein R is branched C₁-C₉ alkyl.

Claim 21 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, wherein R is CH(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂, whereby the two alkyl groups are of different or the same length and are, independently of each other, branched or unbranched.

Claim 22 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, wherein R is CH(C₃H_{7-n})₂.

Claim 23 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, wherein X and Y, independently of one another, are methylene or ethylene.

Claim 24 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, wherein R₁ and R₂, independently of one another, are methyl or ethyl.

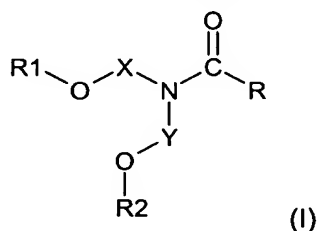
Claim 25 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, wherein the compound of formula (I) is the compound 2-propyl-pentanoic acid-bis-(2-methoxyethyl)-amide.

Claim 26 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, whereby said composition is in the form of an alcoholic solution.

Claim 27 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, whereby said composition is in a pour-on or spot-on formulation.

Claim 28 (Previously presented). The vermin-repellent composition according to Claim 19, whereby said composition is in the form of a collar or tag.

Claim 29 (Currently amended). A compound of formula (I)



wherein

R1 and R2 are unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and X and Y, independently of one another, are a straight-chain or branched alkylene bridge with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano or nitro; and R is CH(C₂-C₄ alkyl)₆ CH(C₂-C₄ alkyl)₂, whereby the two C₂-C₆ alkyl radicals are identical and branched or preferably unbranched.

Claim 30 (Previously presented). A compound of formula (I) according to Claim 29, wherein R is CH(C₃H_{7-n})₂.

Claim 31 (Previously presented). A compound of formula (I) according to Claim 29 wherein said compound is 2-propyl-pentanoic acid-bis-(2-methoxyethyl)-amide.

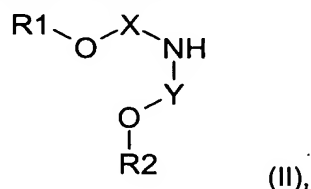
Claim 32 (Previously presented). A method for deterring vermin from an animal, a human, or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of the compound of Claim 29 which deters said vermin.

Claim 33 (Previously presented). A method for repelling vermin from an animal, a human, or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of the compound of Claim 29 which repels said vermin.

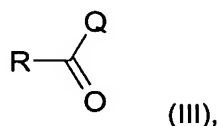
Claim 34 (Previously presented). A method for deterring vermin from an animal, a human or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of the composition of Claim 19 which deters said vermin.

Claim 36 (Previously presented). A method for repelling vermin from an animal, a human or an object comprising applying to said animal, human, or object, an amount of the composition of Claim 19 which repels said vermin.

Claim 37 (Previously presented). A method of producing the compound of formula as defined in Claim 19 comprising reacting a compound of formula (II)



wherein R₁, R₂, X, Y are defined as given for formula (I) in Claim 19, with a compound of formula (III)



wherein R is defined as given for formula (I) in Claim 19 and Q is a leaving group, optionally in the presence of a basic catalyst.